GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7355
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
RETENTION OF LOCALLY RECRUITED EMPLOYEES
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in its Report No. 2 of 2001 in paragraph 8.9pointed out retention of locally recruited employee for seven years beyond the date of her superannuation in Embassy of India, Athens and whether the same thing had been repeated by the Embassy of India in Seoul when a chauffeur-cum-messenger was continued in service irregularly for more than 5 years beyond the date of extended period of superannuation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) the reasons thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to fix accountability and responsibility in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the reasons for which the Ministry did not reply to the audit observations/references expeditiously and

(g) the action the Ministry propose to take in ensuring timely reply to audit observations giving the details of the observations pending with them and since when ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a). Yes, Sir.

(b). The services of a local clerk/typist in the Embassy of India, Athens were retained for seven years beyond her attaining the prescribed age of retirement of female staff in Athens i.e. 60 years on 28-2-1993. Her services were terminated on 28-2-2000. The Embassy of India, Seoulretained the services of a local chauffeur from 1-10-1995 to 31-12-2001 without Ministry`s approval after he had attained the prescribed age of retirement of 58 years as applicable in 1994-95. In his case, however, on the Mission`s recommendation, the Ministry had approved extension for one year from 1-10-94 to 30-9-95.

(c) The prescribed procedure for seeking extension of service was not observed by the concerned missions.

(d). The matter is under investigation with a view to fix responsibility on the concerned officials.

(e). The comments of the concerned officials posted in Athens during the period of extension have been sought. As regards Seoul, the Audit Report has been received recently and the same is being studied with a view to seek necessary comments of the concerned officials.

(f) There has not been any undue delay in replying to the audit observations. The Audit Para No.8.9 of the CAG`s Report for the year 2001 relating to Athens, was received in the Ministry on 22-10-2001 and the Draft Action Taken Note was sent to the DG,ACR on20-11-2001 . As regards Seoul , Para No.9.5 of Report of the CAG for the year ended 2002 has been received in the Ministry only on 16th April , 2002. The Ministry has already approved ex-post-facto the retention of the employees concerned . Having regularised the retention, the proposal for regularisation of the expenditure of Rs.6,94,096 in the case of Athens and Rs.1,97,231 in the case of Seoul, towards the wages paid to the two employees during extended period of their service , is under consideration.

(g) All the CAG paras pertaining to this Ministry up to the year 1998 havebeen settled. Audit paras pertaining to the C & AG Reports since 1999 at various stages of settlement are as below :-

Report No	No. of paras for settlement

No. 2 of 1999 2
No.2 of 2000 3
No.2 of 2001 11

The Ministry has set up a high powered Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry to review follow up action for timely settlement of the C& AG paras..